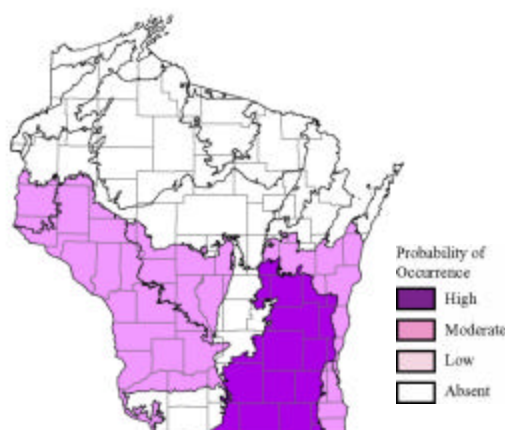


King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

Species Assessment Scores*

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| State rarity: | 4 |
| State threats: | 2 |
| State population trend: | 3 |
| Global abundance: | 4 |
| Global distribution: | 4 |
| Global threats: | 4 |
| Global population trend: | 5 |
| Mean Risk Score: | 3.7 |
| Area of importance: | 2 |

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

| Ecological Landscape | Community |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Central Lake Michigan Coastal | Emergent marsh |
| Central Lake Michigan Coastal | Southern sedge meadow |
| Central Sand Plains | Emergent marsh |
| Central Sand Plains | Northern sedge meadow |
| Central Sand Plains | Southern sedge meadow |
| Southeast Glacial Plains | Emergent marsh |
| Southeast Glacial Plains | Northern sedge meadow |
| Southeast Glacial Plains | Southern sedge meadow |
| Southern Lake Michigan Coastal | Emergent marsh |
| Southern Lake Michigan Coastal | Southern sedge meadow |
| Western Coulee and Ridges | Emergent marsh |
| Western Coulee and Ridges | Southern sedge meadow |
| Western Prairie | Emergent marsh |

Threats and Issues

- Disruption of hydrology can impact wetland quality and extent. King Rails often use adjacent grasslands and shallow, dry marshes, thus unusually high water levels can negatively impact this species.
- Loss of emergent wetlands south of the tension zone to agriculture, dams, filling, development, etc.
- It is not known how King Rail populations respond to exotic invasives like purple loosestrife and giant reed grass.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Habitat protection and restoration through the Wetland Reserve Program, North American Wetland Conservation Act, and other wetland management, protection, and restoration efforts will be key to conservation success.
- More research is needed on all rails as very little is known.

- Research is also needed to help blend waterfowl conservation actions with conservation actions for species such as King Rails.